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 INFO RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE 5684
 RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY 7792
 RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY 2194
 RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE 7481
 RUEHJI/AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY 1132
 RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE 1486
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 C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 3818

E.O. 12065: GDS 6/2/88 (DILLON, ROBERT S.) OR-M
 TAGS: OREP, PEPR, LE, US
 SUBJECT: CODEL PELL: VISIT TO SOUTH LEBANON

1. (C-ENTIRE TEXT)

2. ON JUNE 1, CODEL PELL, ACCOMPANIED BY MRS. DILLON, EMBASSY POLOFF CROCKER, THE GOVERNOR OF TYRE AND MAURICE SHIHAB, THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM'S DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ANTIQUITIES AND A NOTED EXPERT ON ANCIENT TYRE, TRAVELLED TO SIDON AND TYRE IN SOUTH LEBANON. THE TRIP WAS ARRANGED BY THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND THE GOVERNOR OF SOUTH LEBANON, HALIM FAYYAD. AFTER A CALL ON FAYYAD IN SIDON, CODEL PROCEEDED BY ROAD TO TYRE FOR A TOUR OF THE TUIINS AND A BRIEF VISIT TO THE UN REFUGEE CAMP IN RASHIDIYAH. FAYYAD HOSTED A LUNCH FOR THE SENATOR ON HIS RETURN TO SIDON.

3. IN HIS COMMENTS TO THE SENATOR, FAYYAD NOTED THAT THE JULY 1981 CEASE-FIRE WAS A VERY POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT FOR SOUTH LEBANON SINCE IT HALTED ISRAELI/BORDER MILITIA BOMBARDMENTS OF THE AREA. HOWEVER, THE CEASE-FIRE DOES NOT REPRESENT A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT AND IS INHERENTLY UNSTABLE (FAYYAD REMARKED THAT MINE INCIDENTS KILLING OR WOUNDING ISRAELIS IN LEBANON WERE RESULTING IN ISRAELI AIR RAIDS). IN FAYYAD'S VIEW, THE ISRAELI ANNEXATION OF THE GOLAN HEIGHTS AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW SETTLEMENTS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES ARE CLEAR INDICATIONS THAT ISRAEL HAS NO INTENTION OF WITHDRAWING FROM THE WEST BANK OR GAZA. IF THE ISRAELIS ANNEX THESE TERRITORIES, THERE CAN BE NO HOPE FOR APOLITICAL SETTLEMENT.

4. IN HIS BRIEF VISIT TO THE UNRWA REFUGEE CAMP AT RASHIDIYAH, SENATOR PELL, WHO HAS A LONG-STANDING INTEREST IN REFUGEE AFFAIRS, SAW THE SCHOOL AND A CLINIC, AND VISITED SEVERAL HOUSES. (COMMENT: THE VISIT TO THE CAMP, LIKE THE REST OF SENATOR PELL'S PROGRAM IN SOUTH LEBANON, WAS ARRANGED BY THE GOL. WE INFORMED BOTH GOVERNOR FAYYAD AND THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION THAT WHILE THE SENATOR WAS INTERESTED IN SEEING A REFUGEE CAMP, HE DID NOT WISH

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82 8738440

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PAGE 002

NC 8738440

TOR: 021342Z JUN 82

TO MEET WITH ANY PLO OFFICIALS. ON ARRIVAL AT RASHIDIYAH, CODEL WAS MET BY AZAMI SUGHAYR, WHO WAS INTRODUCED AS THE CAMP LEADER. WE WERE LATER INFORMED THAT SUGHAYR IS ALSO AN OFFICIAL IN THE PALESTINIAN-LEBANESE NATIONAL MOVEMENT JOINT FORCES. AS BOTH SENATOR PELL AND AMBASSADOR DILLON MADE CLEAR IN STATEMENTS TO AP, THE SENATOR DID NOT MEET WITH OR TALK TO ANYONE WHO WAS IDENTIFIED AS A MEMBER OF THE PLO. END COMMENT.)

5. OTHER THAN FREQUENT CHECKPOINTS ON THE SIDON-TYRE ROAD (MANNED BY PALESTINIANS OR AHMAD KHATIB'S LEBANESE ARAB ARMY) AND A FEW JEEPS AND TRUCK-MOUNTED (AND OBSOLETE) ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS, FEW SIGNS OF MILITARY PREPARATIONS AND MOVEMENTS WERE VISIBLE. LIFE IN SIDON, TYRE AND OTHER TOWNS IN THE SOUTH APPEARED NORMAL: SHOPS WERE BUSY AND STREETS CROWDED. THERE WAS LITTLE OUTWARD INDICATION THAT THE REGION WAS A POSSIBLE TARGET FOR A MAJOR MILITARY ON-SLAUGHT.

6. SEPTEL REPORTS LOCAL MEDIA REACTION AND STATEMENT BY SENATOR PELL.

7. THIS MESSAGE CLEARED BY SENATOR PELL.

DILLON

END OF MESSAGE

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